

NOTES AND MEMORANDA

Members' Meetings

At a Members' Meeting on Tuesday, January 15th, Dr. J. Fraser Roberts read a paper on "Twins," the text of which we hope to publish in a subsequent issue.

The programme for the first half of 1935 includes the following interesting papers and discussions :

Saturday, February 16th, at 7.30 p.m. Galton Dinner and Lecture. "Eugenic Policy in the Light of Population Trends." *Speaker* : Professor A. M. Carr-Saunders, M.A.

Tuesday, March 19th, at 5.15 p.m. "The Genetics of Amentia : A Territorial Survey in a Rural Area." *Speaker* : Frederick Grundy, M.D., D.P.H.

Tuesday, April 16th, at 5.15 p.m. "Researches in Contraception." *Speaker* : J. R. Baker, M.A., Ph.D.

Tuesday, May 14th, at 4.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting. "Eugenics, Academic and Practical." *Speaker* : Professor R. A. Fisher, Sc.D., F.R.S.

Tuesday, June 18th, at 5.15 p.m. "Are the Principles of Eugenics most favoured by a Socialist or Capitalist State of Society?" *Speakers* : C. V. Drysdale, C.B., O.B.E., D.Sc., and T. Drummond Shiels, M.C., M.B., Ch.B.

With the exception of the Galton Dinner these arrangements are subject to alteration.

The Galton Dinner will take place at the Hotel Victoria, the Annual General Meeting at the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1, and all the other meetings at the Rooms of the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.

The chair at the Dinner and at all the lectures will be taken by Sir Humphry Rolleston, Bt., President of the *Eugenics Society*.

Bibliography

IN connection with his paper on "The Decline in the Birth-Rate" (October 1934, p. 193), Dr. Wagner-Manslau has sent

us the following bibliography, which is supplementary to items 1 to 9 published with his two papers on "Human Fertility" in the *EUGENICS REVIEW* of October 1932 (p. 195) and January 1933 (p. 297).

10. Die Abstammungszahlen innerhalb der höheren Schichten des Bürgertums. *Deutsches Ärzteblatt*, 1933, 5.
11. Weiteres über Abstammungszahlen der höheren Beamten. *Deutsches Ärzteblatt*, 1933, 10.
12. Beweis der Vererbbarkeit der menschlichen Fruchtbarkeit. *Deutsches Ärzteblatt*, 1933, 15.
13. Vererbung des Grades der menschlichen Fruchtbarkeit. *Deutsches Ärzteblatt*, 1933, 22.
14. Der Geburtenrückgang eine erbliche Erscheinung. *Zeitschrift der Reichsfachschaft Deutscher Hebammen*, 1933, 7.

Research in Contraception

A MEDICAL sub-committee, consisting of practitioners actively engaged in the teaching of contraception, has been appointed by the National Birth Control Association for the purpose of collecting, co-ordinating, and publishing authoritative information on all aspects of contraception for the use of the medical profession. It is intended that this Committee shall consult with research workers, manufacturers, birth-control clinics, and private practitioners, and to this end, and in order that it may have the fullest sources of information possible, it asks any persons in these categories to communicate with it at the headquarters of the National Birth Control Association, 26 Eccleston Street, S.W.1.

Marriage Hygiene

At the time of going to press we had not yet received the second issue of *Marriage Hygiene*, the new quarterly periodical to which reference was made in the *REVIEW* of October

1934 (p. 81). The following statement of policy, sent to us by Dr. Norman E. Himes, Editor for U.S.A., gives some indication of the interesting developments that may be hoped for in this Journal in the near future.

"*Marriage Hygiene* will carry general and special articles, in addition to abstracts of the world's scientific literature on marriage, the family, eugenics and racial welfare, sexual or social hygiene, contraception, sterilization and marital adjustment—in short, scientific material treating marriage as a social and biological institution, considering especially the factors and forces influencing its welfare as the latter term is interpreted by enlightened readers of contemporary public opinion. One purpose in founding the journal has been to bring together and to promote the interests of individuals operating contraceptive clinics and marital hygiene consultation services. We have a unique opportunity in our abstracting service to cover the literature of this field. Especially is this true of contraception and sterilization which is nowhere adequately abstracted. The field of the journal is therefore socio-medical or medico-sociological."

Maternal Mortality

DAME LOUISE MCILROY presided over a meeting of the National Baby Week Council which was held at its headquarters, 117 Piccadilly, on November 14th. After the ordinary business had been transacted there took place a discussion on the value of propaganda for ante-natal work in reducing maternal mortality. This rate has slightly increased, although ante-natal care has become more extensive, reaching between 40 and 80 per cent. of pregnancies in some areas. It was alleged that in many cases only three or four examinations were made instead of the desirable seven. Proposals were made for home helps before confinements, and for a supply of hospital beds for ante-natal treatment of up to 20 per cent. of cases.

Some medical officers gave a careful analysis of maternal deaths that had occurred over five- and ten-year periods respectively.

Of the total mortality 20 per cent. was due to inter-current disease (the remedy proposed being pre-marital health examination and certification) and 15 per cent. was due to attempted abortion. Your delegate gave figures for different countries, pointing to the importance of the constitutional factor, which had also been brought out in the analysis above referred to, and supported the proposal for pre-marital examination and an extension of knowledge of contraception.

C. B. S. HODSON.

Disease and Intelligence

At a Members' Meeting on December 18th, Dr. Shepherd Dawson, M.A., D.Sc., read a paper entitled "Disease and Intelligence." He expressed the view that there were serious popular misconceptions regarding the mental after-effects of disease, malnutrition, and physical injuries. It was commonly believed that much intellectual dullness was due to a fall, a shock, or an illness. There could be little doubt that a shock might have emotional after-effects and that prolonged absence from school might interfere with a child's education, but the brain was very well protected against attack.

Careful measurement of intellectual efficiency spread over many years in the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, showed that while dullness of intellect was sometimes due to what might be called accidents—natal, ante-natal, or post-natal—it seemed on the whole to be inherited. There appeared to be very few diseases that affected intellectual development, and these were of a kind that affected the brain as a whole. There was no evidence that the common diseases had any measurable effect on intellectual development.

Vital Statistics

THE principal features of *The Registrar-General's Statistical Review of England and Wales for 1933*,* published on December 10th, 1934, can be summarized very shortly. The number of births registered in the year was

* Part I. Tables. Medical. H.M. Stationery Office. Price 6s. net.

580,413, giving a rate of 14.4 per 1,000 persons living. This rate is 0.9 below that for 1932, hitherto the lowest recorded, and constitutes a new low record.

The death-rate was 12.3 per 1,000 persons living, 0.3 above the rate for 1932 (the same as that for 1931), but 0.9 above that for 1930. The rate for 1930 was, however, the lowest ever recorded, this being attributed to the exceptionally mild weather in the first quarter of that year. The higher rate for 1933 is almost wholly occasioned by an excess in the first quarter of the year, the rates for the other three quarters showing very little variation from the previous year.

Infant mortality was similarly affected, and the deaths of children under one year of age numbered 64 per 1,000 live births against 65 in 1932, 66 in 1931 and 60 in 1930. Nineteen-thirty is, however, the only year showing a lower infant mortality than 1933.

Cancer showed a death-rate of 1,526 per million persons living against 1,510 in 1932. If, however, allowance is made for differences in the age constitution of the population the comparative mortality from cancer shows a slight decrease. Tuberculosis again furnished a new low record of 824 per million living.

Puerperal sepsis caused the deaths of 1.75 women per 1,000 live and still births, 0.20 more than the rate for 1932 but 0.09 less than 1930. "Other accidents of pregnancy and child-birth" showed a rate of 2.57 per 1,000 live and still births compared with 2.49 in 1932, 2.36 in 1931 and 2.38 in 1930.

The death-rate from suicide was 140 per million persons living, a decrease of 3 per million on the record high rate of 1932. A slow increase in this rate has been continuous for a number of years.

Road accidents due to mechanical vehicles were responsible for 5,934 deaths. The figures for the last five years were 5,196, 5,752, 6,342, 5,892, and 5,671 respectively.

National Birth Control Association

THE sum of £1,000 was collected at a dinner which was held at Claridge's on December 18th for the purpose of obtaining funds for

the National Birth Control Association. Speeches in general support of the purposes of the Association were made by Lady Maureen Stanley, who had organized the dinner, Lady Limerick, Lord Horder, Sir Patrick Hastings and Mr. Frederick Lonsdale. In the course of his observations, Lord Horder laid special stress on the advantages derived by the affiliation to the National Birth Control Association of the Birth Control Investigation Committee, and in enumerating its activities in the order of their value gave first place to research.

After discussing in detail why he believed in the desirability of a more general practice of birth-control in this country, Lord Horder said: "Indeed, in whatever direction I look amongst the various schemes for human betterment—those activities designed to improve health and increase happiness—I cannot escape the conviction that in the spacing of child-births, in increasing the sense of responsibility with regard to parenthood, in the elimination of the unwanted child, there lies, not only the easiest, but the most effective contribution to preventive medicine and to social betterment."

Lectures by the Society

IN the past quarter there have been repeated requests for lectures from branches of the College of Nursing, which has lately shown great interest in the subject of voluntary sterilization. Between November 17th and December 15th, 1934, Miss Pocock addressed eleven branches; on December 11th, Mrs. Hodson addressed the Guildford branch.

Other organizations addressed in the past quarter (by Miss Pocock, who heads the list of lecturers, the Hon. Mrs. Grant Duff, Mrs. Hodson, Miss Moore and Miss Lodge) include branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild and of the Wives' Fellowship, the Birth Control International Information Centre, Walthamstow Health Exhibition, branches of the Modern Churchmen's Union, and the Co-operative Men's Guild and various Colleges of Nursing. The total number of lectures in the quarter was fifty.

Genetics for Everyman

THE following item from a national daily newspaper may throw a new light on eugenics for readers of this REVIEW.

"There is no doubt that for those years (the first nine of her life) Eugenette Bolce, England's first eugenic baby, fulfilled all the eugenic theories of her father and mother. Before she was born in Hampstead twenty-one years ago, her parents had talked with comedians so that their child should have a sense of humour. They filled their home with lovely things so that the child, too, should adore beauty.

"Mrs. Taylor, a rugged, black-eyed old lady of seventy-four, has brought up sixteen children of her own, and is now bringing up the grandchildren.

" 'I did not know anything about eugenics,' she said, 'until I met Billy Bolce. He and I agreed on these things for Eugenette—plenty of air, plenty of food, and plenty of freedom.' "

In America, as the following extract from

a Kansas newspaper shows, they can go one better :

"In Pittston, Pa., a baby girl was born recently with a perfectly formed Blue Eagle stamped in the centre of its little forehead. The birth-mark looks exactly like the strange bird which is now seen everywhere in public places. When the infant laughs or cries, the mark turns from a reddish colour to a deep blue. While watching an N.R.A. parade ten days before the child's birth, its mother fainted and had to be taken home ; hence the strange birth-mark."

Elections to the Society

THE following have been elected Life Fellows (starred) and Members of the *Eugenics Society* during the past quarter :

*Lady Chambers (transferred from Fellowship)	W. E. Godfrey, Esq.
Howard Copland, Esq.	*Lt.-Col. G. E. Malcomson, I.M.S. (Rtd.)
Mrs. Stewart Farquharson	(transferred from Membership)



JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

THIRD SERIES.

VOL. XVI. PART IV.

NOVEMBER 1934

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